



Mrs. Ingram and two sons after they'd been saved from chair.

INGRAMS FACE 7 YEARS IN PRISON

Saved From Chair; Fight Is Not Over

(Special to The Courier)

ELLAVILLE, Ga.—In jail here where all their troubles started, Mrs. Rosa Lee Ingram and her sons, Wallace and Sammie, will be eligible for parole after they have served seven years of the life sentences given them last week by Judge William H. Harper at Americus. Judge Harper commuted their death sentences to life imprisonment, and denied them new trials.

Another move to free them will be made early next week when Atty. A. T. Walden of Atlanta, representing the NAACP, files a bill of exceptions before the Georgia State Supreme Court against the ruling of Judge Harper last week. Colonel Walden will ask that tribunal to grant a new trial to the condemned trio.

Judge Harper acted on Tuesday of last week, issuing the commutation and denying the motion for a new trial made by Atty. S. H. Dykes, court-appointed defense counsel of Americus. The Ingrams were originally sentenced to die in the electric chair on Feb. 7 after their conviction by an all-white jury on a first-degree murder charge.

They had been tried together, slaying of a white sharecropper, John E. Stratford, in a field near here on Nov. 27, 1947, after Stratford had attacked Mrs. Ingram following an argument. The jury's verdict was returned without recommendation of mercy, making the death penalty mandatory.

Their new sentences are to be served in the Georgia State Penitentiary at Reidsville.

ROW OVER FEES

Attorney Walden told The Courier that he was taking full charge of further defense of the Ingrams under NAACP sponsorship. Rumors prevailed that differences exist between the NAACP and Attorney Dykes, a white lawyer, who has handled the defense since the case first entered court. The differences were said to exist over fees for Attorney Dykes.

From his home in Americus Sunday night, Attorney Dykes told The Courier that he had set a fee of \$750 for handling the case through the motion for a new trial, but that he had placed a flat fee of \$5,000 on his services "from here on out." This would include handling the case through both Georgia and United States Supreme Courts, if necessary.

CONFEE THIS WEEK

Pending a conference slated to be held with Colonel Walden late this week, Attorney Dykes said that he was still in the case as far as he knew, although his status was still in doubt. It was understood that Colonel Walden and the NAACP were haggling at the \$5,000 fee.

Announcement of a full-fledged NAACP intervention in the case came from New York last week when Thurgood S. Marshall, head of the NAACP legal staff, raised plans for filing the bill of exceptions. Georgia's laws require this to be done within twenty days after the decision of the court. This gives the defense until April 24.

THOUSANDS FOR CHILDREN

Meanwhile, officials of the Georgia Citizens Defense Committee advised that they were making several thousand dollars available to the Ingram family to renovate an old house located on a forty-acre acre plot of land near Americus, owned by Mrs. Ingram. The other Ingram children will live there.

These funds, Colonel Walden told The Courier, consist of monies which had been donated as rewards in the Walton County lynchings of two Negro war veterans and their wives by a white mob near Monroe, Ga., in 1946. After the lynchings were not apprehended, this money remained in the committee's hands.

HOW MUCH MONEY?

At the same time, Colonel Walden would give no estimate of the

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amount of money which has been poured into his office, local NAACP branch offices and the national NAACP office for the defense of the Ingrams.

He did say that within the next two weeks a full accounting would be made of all collections, expenses and disbursements from the funds from all parts of America. He said that all money received at his office had been deposited to the credit of the Georgia State Conference of NAACP Branches. More than \$2,600 has been raised through the home office of The Pittsburgh Courier.

REBUFF CBO HELP

Attorney Walden said the NAACP intended to refuse any offers of help proffered for the Ingram children by the Civil Rights Congress. A local CRC committee had contacted him, he disclosed, and offered help.

Mrs. Ingram was leaving all decisions in the case in the hands of their lawyers. Their decision to carry the case further means that three separate bills of exception will be filed, one for each of the defendants—pointing out what the defense calls errors in Judge Harper's decision.

They will appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court if they receive an adverse decision from the Georgia Supreme Court.

NOT IN PHILLY

Colonel Walden denied reports that he had been in New York City and Philadelphia as has been reported. Mrs. Amy Hunt, mother of Mrs. Ingram, said last week that Attorney Walden had visited her in Philadelphia.

—END JIM CROW IN ARMED FORCES—